Are We Truly Ready for the Savior’s Descent?

A profound innate belief in God and the ultimate promotion of His Kingdom is rooted in the heart of every believer in any of the three Divine religions: Judaism, Christianity and Islam. In this Kingdom, the sincere, pious worshippers of the One Creator of all mankind and of the whole Universe will spread justice, mercy, fellow-feeling, love and peace among all men. It is in this Kingdom that man will be the true viceroy of God, who, despite all challenges, will eventually conquer all the evil and vice that have been spreading in the universe, and who will subsequently manage to promote the Kingdom of God, as God has promised in His Holy Scriptures. This Kingdom will fill the world with justice and light until the end of this transient worldly life when everyone of us will be held to account before our All-Just and All-Merciful Creator, to be ushered to his terminal station: Eternal Bliss or Eternal Misery.

The “Kingdom of God”, the “Kingdom of Truth”, the “Kingdom of Justice, Mercy, Love and Peace” is repeatedly mentioned, in one way or another, both directly and indirectly, in all Divine Scriptures, in the Holy Bible, in the Holy Torah as well as in the Holy Qur’ặn.

٢ Chronicles ٢٠:٦ "O Lord, God of our fathers, are you not the God who is in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. Power and might are in your hand, and no one can withstand you.”

Psalm ٣١:٢٣ “ Love the Lord, all his saints! The Lord preserves the faithful, but the proud he pays back in full.”

Psalm ٣٣:٥ “The Lord loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of his unfailing love.”

Psalm ٥٧:١٠ “ For great is your love, reaching to the heavens; your faithfulness reaches to the skies.”

Psalm ٨٩:١٤ “Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; love and faithfulness go before you.”

Psalm ١٠٠: ٥ “For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.”

Romans ١٤:١٧ “For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.”

Taking this common concept as a starting point at which the three Divine Religions meet, and yearning for the acceleration of the establishment of the Kingdom of God, many sincere believers (Jews, Christians as well as Muslims), simple and sophisticated, ignorant and educated, young and old, rulers and ruled, are perpetually wondering: “What can we do to be active contributors to the establishment of the Kingdom of God?” “Or, at the very least, how can we support

those noble and brave souls who can undertake this heavy and sacred responsibility?" In other words, "In what way can we assist them to perform their holy task, both practically and spiritually?"

The answer to all these questions resides in the conceptions of the followers of the three Divine Religions of the way this dream will be fulfilled, the dream of the eventual establishment of the Kingdom of God on this earth. Despite certain irrelevant differences in these conceptions, they have one fundamental thing in common: The Kingdom of God can only be founded on justice, mercy, love and peace. Without the presence of these basic values, no state can allege to be paving the way for the establishment of the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God cannot possibly be founded on injustice, plunder, unspeakable atrocities, and the indiscriminating massacre of innocent human souls!

According to these three great Divine Religions, it is assigned to the offspring of Abraham, PBUH, to raise the Word of Allah in this world, and to establish His Kingdom on earth before this worldly life comes to an end, a kingdom where love, mercy, justice and peace will everywhere prevail. This is the essence of the message conveyed since time immemorial by known and unknown prophets and Messengers of Allah to mankind. This is the selfsame message conveyed by Abraham, Moses, David, Solomon, Zakareyya, John the Baptist, Jesus, and finally, Muhammad, Peace and Mercy of Allah be upon them all. Freed from deceptive prejudices and irrational fanaticism, anyone can see that the essence of this message is the same in the three great Divine Religions.

To stand in the way of establishing this Kingdom, the Kingdom of God, the powers of evil in this world, human and nonhuman, have plotted and conspired to form an opposite kingdom, a kingdom of falsehood, evil and vice. Deceiving men by beautiful outward appearances that hide horrors underneath, philosophizing falsehoods to seem true and rational, twisting truths to conform to their own false logic, these powers have led many sincere souls to be deceived by their specious logic into confusing right with wrong, good with evil, truth with falsehood. Hence springs the belief of many sincere Christians and Jews that it is their religious duty to support with all their will and might those who assume to be the superior race, the elite among mankind, the people elected by God to establish His Kingdom on earth. But what is the practical consequence of the unlimited support of many sincere but beguiled Christians and Jews all over the world to this 'superior' sect? Is the dream of establishing the Kingdom of God any nearer to realization? What are the steps actually taken to promote the Kingdom of God? Looking at the sad reality of our world, we can only see that this unlimited support has only managed to enable a fanatic, autocratic sect to

spread injustice instead of justice, hatred instead of love, revenge instead of forgiveness, fanaticism instead of tolerance, and war and violence instead of peace and security! Can this chaotic havoc be possibly the precursor heralding the foundation of the Kingdom of God? ! If the descent of the Savior is to be preceded by putting the fundamental bricks of this Kingdom, then, what is taking place today in the holy lands does not in any way augur the approach of this holy descent. On the contrary, if it indicates anything, it indicates that we are still not ready for this great, anticipated event. To transcend that obstacle, we must try to go to the roots of the problem.

What is happening today in that holy part of the world emanates, to a great extent, from a big misunderstanding: Arabs, and particularly Muslims, by no means wish to throw the Jews of Israel into the sea, as it has been wrongly propagated. The Jews have an undeniable right to live in these sacred lands, according to most of the followers of the three great Divine Religions. It is their final home after years of homelessness. But there they are to live side by side with other citizens of the same homeland, Christians as well as Muslims, having the same rights and the same duties. But this, deplorably, is not the case in the existent autocratic State of Israel, where Christians just as well as Muslims are maltreated and deprived of their basic human rights on no other grounds but Israel's false claim that these lands are decreed by God to be exclusively the homeland of the Jews, and not that of the followers of any other Divine Religion. This spurious 'superiority', this big illusion, is the source of the bitter hatred and violence existing among the rightful citizens (Jews as well as Christians and Muslims) in these holy lands. This is the source of the chaos rampant there today.

How have the current conditions come into being and how have they developed to reach that disastrous state? The origin of all this havoc was the propagation of certain prevalent misconceptions. Most important among these misconceptions is the false association in the minds of many between the emigration of the Jews from all over the world to form their homeland in the holy lands, as it is decreed by God and mentioned in the Divine Scriptures, and between the imperative duty of pious Christians everywhere to offer full support to the existent political State of Israel, which presently occupies the Holy lands. It is true that the Jews' right of citizenship in this part of the world is unquestionable. But it is also true that, according to the Holy Scriptures, this right is not confined exclusively to the Jews, but extends to include the original Christian and Muslim citizens who have lived for ages and ages in that same homeland.

Psalm ٣٧:٢٨ "For the Lord loves the just and will not forsake his faithful ones. They will be protected forever, but the offspring of the wicked will be cut off."

Matthew ٢١:٤٣ "Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit."

Luke ١٣: ٢٨-٣٠ "There will be weeping there, and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves thrown out. People will come from east and west and north and south, and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God. Indeed there are those who are last who will be first, and first who will be last."

The existent State of Israel, where Despotic Jewish citizens rule and oppress their fellow citizens who follow either of the two other Divine Religions, is not at all consistent with the image presented of that homeland in The Holy Scriptures.

Revelation ٢١:٥-٨ "He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."
He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son. But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars-their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death."

Revelation ٢١:٢٨ "Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life."

Revelation ٢٢:١٢-١٥ "Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the

First and the last, the Beginning and the End. Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood."

Galatians ٥: ١٩-٢١ " The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God."

Colossians ٣: ٥-٦ "Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming."

Colossians ٣: ٨-١١ "But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all."

Colossians ٣: ١٢-١٤ "Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity."

Another significant misconception of the role pious Christians have to play in the current, bitter conflict between Israel and the Arabs, arises from the false belief of many Christians, especially in the Western world, that for the battle of 'Armageddon', mentioned in the Holy Bible, to take place[1], Israel must be given the chance, in every possible way, to achieve constant financial and military superiority over the Arabs. Hence arises the lopsided, limitless financial and military support offered by many Western Christians to one side only of the warring parties, regardless of any considerations of justice, humaneness or any logical rationale. But if we go back to the Holy Bible, we shall see that the Battle of 'Armageddon' is not a battle of absolute devastation where an all-powerful party brings to utter ruin an almost absolutely powerless one. Rather, it is a battle of purification and expiation between almost equivalent forces where the unjust tyrants of all sides are in the end defeated as a first step towards the descent of the Savior, which is eagerly waited for by all the pious followers of the three Divine Religions. The existent conflict between Israel and the Arabs, then, with its flagrant imbalance between the warring forces (with one side armed in abundance with the most advanced, devastative technological weapons, and the other hardly having sufficient traditional or even primitive weapons to defend itself), in no way indicates the approach of the Battle of Armageddon, which must precede the Holy descent of the Savior and which is mentioned in the Holy Bible. To be a sincere interpreter and follower of the real meanings conveyed in the Holy Bible, every pious scholar and preacher of the three Divine religions must exert his utmost effort to rectify this big misconception, which has led to so much injustice.

Revelation ١٦:١٦-١٧ "Then they gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon. The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and out of the temple came a loud voice from the throne, saying, It is done."

Finally, it is indeed astonishing how pious Christians have overlooked the fact that the Muslims' concept of Christ, the Savior, and his anticipated descent before the end of the world, is almost identical with that of the Christians, contrary to the distorted concept of the Jews in that respect. The Muslims' veneration and sanctification of Jesus PBUH and the Virgin Mary are closely akin to the Christian attitude towards Christ, the ultimate Savior of humanity, contrary to the

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[1] The chronological order of the three above mentioned great events (the Battle of Armageddon, the establishment of the Kingdom of God, and the final holy descent of Jesus Christ before the end of the world) is a controversial matter among religious scholars. However, as all these scholars have a common belief that the three events will certainly take place in some future time, their chronological order is irrelevant to the thesis of this paper, which aims at stressing the importance of the collaboration of sincere Christians with sincere Muslims to pave the way for the anticipated holy descent of Christ, PBUH, to fill the world with justice and light.

Jews' blasphemous beliefs about them. The differences between Muslims and Christians in their concepts about the nature of Christ (human or Divine) do not, in fact, have any negative effect on their common belief that Christ's anticipated descent, before the end of this worldly life, will fill the world with justice, spiritual light and peace among men. Conversely, the Jews' sacrilegious belief in the adulterous origin of Christ, God Forbid, is poles apart from Christ's sacred image in the minds of Christians just as well as Muslims. It must be noted here that one of the main causes of the hostility between Jews and Muslims has arisen from the Muslims' constant angry and passionate defense of the holy Christ and his holy mother against the blasphemous accusations of the Jews of them, since the emergence of Islam and up to this day.

On the other hand, the developed hostility between Christians and Muslims, which is deliberately and maliciously created by the devious propaganda and deceitful cant of extremists belonging to the three religions, is based on specious misconceptions and irrational prejudices. If all parties can get rid of false prejudices and unreasonable extremism, if they can look at their common beliefs more thoroughly and more impartially and forget about their differences, they are apt to revive the mutual affection, the sympathetic tolerance and peaceful co-existence that existed between them throughout the ages of history and that is recorded in the Holy Scriptures of the three Divine religions. In this connection, the Holy Qur'ặn tells us:

"..........و لتجدن أقربهم مودة............. "

The revival of this mutual affection between the followers of the three Divine Religions is a necessary preparatory stage towards the establishment of the Kingdom of God. Who, then, is The Chosen People of God –the happy souls who are destined to be the first founders of that Holy Kingdom, promised by God in all the Holy Scriptures? What are their distinctive traits? How can we recognize them to support them with all our hearts and souls? O, you who are eagerly waiting for the descent of the savior to rescue the world –to carry humanity away from darkness to light, from ignorance to knowledge, from falsehood to truth, from misery to happiness, O, come and let us all be true with ourselves. Let us not allow ourselves to be hastily deceived by specious claims and spurious allegations. Could the Chosen People of God be so merciless, so atrocious, so bloodthirsty? Could the preparatory stage of the Promised Kingdom of God be that State of violence, of terror, of atrocious oppression and flagrant injustice? God Forbid! Looking dispassionately at that State of Israel, which claims to be the nucleus of the Kingdom of God, we can, indeed, only see an incarnation of the kingdom of Satan which God has warned us against in the Holy Bible, and

which He ordered the righteous among men to blot out of existence before the establishment of His Kingdom, as a preparatory stage for the descent of the Savior, for he will not come down to shake hands with murderers and psychopathic criminals, who spread hatred, envy and devastation everywhere. Is not the existent State of Israel closely akin to that kingdom where "……………………………..", as the Holy Bible describes it?

John ٨-٤٢:٤٥ "Jesus said to them, If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and now am here. I have not come on my own; but He sent me. Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say. You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me!"

But how have the vicious among men managed to propagate this big lie? How have they managed to deceive the cultivated and intellectual elite of societies? First of all, in this materialistic world of ours, with the boundless financial aid of the Zionists in America and elsewhere, the supporters of Israel have been capable of buying the consciences of decision makers in many parts of the world and influencing international political institutions in their favor, regardless of justice or injustice, right or wrong, supporting The Kingdom of God or the kingdom of the Devil.

Above all, however, to create their big illusion of being The Chosen People, who are to be the founders of the Kingdom of God, the Israelis have exerted all possible efforts to touch the religious sense that is entrenched deep into every noble human soul, but which, for some reason, many people nowadays prefer not to mention and are reluctant to admit overtly that it has any influence on their behavior and deeds. To reach their end, the extremist Jews in Israel today have made the best use of that common religious sense in the moderate followers of the three Divine Religions, through their cunning intrigues and wily machinations: pseudo-religious sermons propagated everywhere, false interpretations of the Words of God, devious religious propaganda spreading religious misconceptions and distorted religious meanings, garbing sin with the dress of piety, making bloodshed seem a means for the contentment of God or, at least, a necessary vehicle for the establishment of the Kingdom of God, bestowing Divine blessings on callous terrorists, who throw the original owners out of their homes, usurp their rightful lands, plunder their wealth, massacre their families before their very eyes, and stifle with a hand of iron any voice that only dares to resist. Strangely enough, it is this People who claim 'superiority' over all the other peoples of the world, who claim to be the Chosen People of God! But this 'superiority', oddly, does not emanate from love, mercy, charity, and self-denial, as the holy prophets of the Jews had throughout their long history preached.

Rather, it emanates from the distortion or absolute obliteration of these noble values that dominated the old kingdoms of all the holy prophets of the Jews, such as Joseph, David and Solomon, Peace Be Upon Them all, values that had led them to be rightly considered the superior People of their times. Today, these values are twisted by the extremist Israeli Jews to involve murder, plunder, terrorism, absolute devastation of entire villages, towns and innocent human souls, not to speak of countless other unspeakable crimes against humanity at large. Where has the Holy Bible ever intimated that such People will be the Chosen People of God, the first founders of His Final Kingdom on earth? How, then, can we justify the boundless support this people is offered by sincere followers of the three Divine Religions to spread that havoc and devastation everywhere?

Hence, the Kingdom of God is still far away. The holy descent of the Savior must be postponed until God's True Word be raised in this world, until the pious followers of the Divine Religions go back to God, and apply His Divine Laws to their lives and the lives of others, without any inane sophistry or distorted religious interpretations. Only those who are courageous enough to do so despite the general hostility and contempt they are likely to confront from extremists everywhere can be the Chosen People of God, the real founders of the Kingdom of God, who will pave the way for the anticipated, Holy Descent.

To conclude, it must be remembered that, just as well as Christians, Muslims all over the world are heartily longing for the realization of God's Promise in the Holy Scriptures of the establishment of the Kingdom of God, "Al-Khilafah Al-Rashidah"[٢], which Prophet Muhammad PBUH informed them about, and in which Muslims will have the honor, as he prognosticated, to participate in paving the way for the descent of Christ PBUH and in filling the world with justice and light. One of the most significant manifestations of this preparation will be the participation, with pious Christians and Jews, in a decisive war against the extremist Jews, the true enemies of Christ PBUH. The final Divine reward will be a glorious victory over the enemies of God followed by the anticipated Holy Descent of Christ PBUH, whose sincere disciples and followers will be the true, pious believers, as Prophet Mohammad, PBUH, prophesied.

[٢] "Al-Khilafah Al-Rashidah", according to the Islamic belief, is The Sagacious Kingdom, at the end of the world, in which the Word of God will be raised everywhere on earth, and will fill the world with justice after it was filled with injustice and oppression , and on which Christ PBUH will finally descend.